

SEP 12 2007

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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (New) A seat belt device for a vehicle, comprising:

a ratchet retractor including a reel, ratchet teeth formed on the reel and a ratchet claw and capable of dispensing and retracting webbing of a seat belt, said webbing being locked by engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth so that the webbing cannot be drawn out of the retractor when an acceleration equal to or larger than a predetermined value is applied to the vehicle;

a weight adapted to be responsive to the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value to effect the engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth thereby to make said ratchet retractor lock the webbing,

an electric motor driven for rotation in a normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt when a collision of the vehicle is predetected and, when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided and the acceleration has been reduced to be smaller than the predetermined value, driven for rotation in the normal direction to cancel locking thereby loosening the webbing; and

a device separate from said weight and adapted to predict the collision of the vehicle and send a signal to the electric motor indicating a possibility of the collision of the vehicle so that with said signal from the device, the electric motor is driven for rotation in the normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt,

wherein when said signal from the device indicating the possibility of the collision of the vehicle has disappeared, the electric motor is operated to drive and rotate the reel in the normal direction to rotate the reel in an amount corresponding to at least one crest of the ratchet teeth to cancel the locking, thereby loosening the webbing.

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11. (New) The seat belt device according to claim 10, wherein when the collision of the vehicle is predetected by said device, the electric motor is operated to rotate the reel in the normal direction even in a state where said ratchet claw has already been engaged with one of the ratchet teeth.

12. (New) The seat belt device according to claim 10, whercin said device is one of an adaptive cruise control system (ACC), a vehicle stability assisting system (VSA), an electric power steering system (EPS), a supplementary restraint system (SRS), and an automatic transmission system (AT).

13. (New) A seat belt device for a vehicle, comprising:

a ratchet retractor including a reel, ratchet teeth formed on the reel and a ratchet claw and capable of dispensing and retracting webbing of a seat belt, said webbing being locked by engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth so that the webbing cannot be drawn out of the retractor when an acceleration equal to or larger than a predetermined value is applied to the vehicle;

a weight adapted to be responsive to the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value to effect the engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth thereby to make said ratchet retractor lock the webbing,

an electric motor driven for rotation in a normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt when a collision of the vehicle is predetected and, when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided and the acceleration has been reduced to be smaller than the predetermined value, driven for rotation in the normal direction to cancel locking thereby loosening the webbing; and

a device separate from said weight and adapted to predict the collision of the vehicle and send a signal to the electric motor indicating a possibility of the collision of the vehicle so that with said signal from the device, the electric motor is driven for rotation in the normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt even in an engaged state of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth,

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wherein when said signal from the device indicating the possibility of the collision of the vehicle has disappeared without any further signal from a sensor, the electric motor is operated to drive and rotate the reel in the normal direction to rotate the reel in an amount corresponding to at least one crest of the ratchet teeth to cancel the locking, thereby loosening the webbing.

14. (New) The seat belt device according to claim 10, wherein said device is one of an adaptive cruise control system (ACC), a vehicle stability assisting system (VSA), an electric power steering system (EPS), a supplementary restraint system (SRS), and an automatic transmission system (AT).